

PM: Lifts the Curtain on a Peculiar

FOIAb3b

The FBI Deputy Director Who Thought FDR A Comintern Agent!

On December 18 *Izvestia* published an interview with Harold A. R. Philby who fled to Moscow in 1963 after several decades as a double-agent planted by the Soviet secret service in British intelligence. A translation filled a full page of the *New York Times* Dec. 19. Philby worked closely with the FBI and the CIA. The most fascinating part of the interview for Americans was his recollections of D. Milton Ladd, who until his retirement in 1954 was a deputy director of the FBI. Philby said Ladd made "an indelible impression" because "this astonishingly dense personage tried to convince me in all seriousness that Franklin Roosevelt was a Comintern agent."

A Library for Witch Hunters

This will not surprise those aware of the rightist paranoia prevalent in the FBI. I recall that during World War II, I published in the newspaper PM a series exposing the kind of loyalty interrogations to which Federal employes were even then being subjected by the FBI. Employes were asked whether they had ever entertained Negroes or subscribed to liberal publications like *The Nation*. The year after Ladd retired, he and Stanley J. Tracey, another retired assistant to J. Edgar Hoover, founded a free public library in Washington to provide information about subversive groups and individuals. This was the height of McCarthyism (J. Edgar Hoover was himself a great admirer of McCarthy). It is easy to imagine the kind of information this library provided.

While liberal connections were grounds for suspicion, Fascist sympathies seemed to be a recommen-

What Soviet Youth Finds Inspiring in the USA

"Freedom of speech and of the press is, first of all, freedom for criticism. Nobody has ever forbidden praise of the Government. If in the [Soviet] Constitution there are articles about freedom of speech and of the press, then have the patience to listen to criticism. In what kinds of countries is it forbidden to criticize the government and protest against its actions? Perhaps in capitalist countries? No. We know that in bourgeois countries Communist parties exist whose purpose it is to undermine the capitalist system. In the USA the Communist party was suppressed. However, the Supreme Court declared that the suppression was unconstitutional and restored the Communist party to its full rights."

—Vladimir I. Bukovsky, in a Soviet court last Sept. 1, where he was sentenced to 3 years in prison for organizing a street demonstration to protest the arrest of the editors of an underground literary magazine. (Text in *New York Times* Dec. 27.)

dation. Philby says he rose in British intelligence and won the confidence of men like Ladd in the FBI and Allen Dulles in the CIA by his success in posing as a Fascist sympathizer. He was decorated by Franco during the Spanish Civil War and enjoyed warm relations with Hitler's Foreign Minister, Ribbentrop. Philby was an active member in the pro-Nazi Anglo-German Friendship Society. This past seems to have convinced his colleagues in both Britain and America that Philby was a dependable fellow.

Philby seems to be a bit of a liberal; for he told a *London Sunday Times* writer that he deplored the Sinyavsky-Daniel trial as "a regrettable reversion to the old spirit." But that, of course, was not published in *Izvestia*.

Rare Eye-Witness Account: How We "Pacify" Them and Brutalize Ourselves

Xuan Dai, South Vietnam—Little fires were still burning in the ruins. Frightened baby chicks chirped frantically in search of their mothers. From the charred entry of one of the buildings, a middle-aged peasant woman tentatively poked her head, then emerged with a puzzled-looking little boy. Quickly another much older looking woman followed her and then several more children.

"Hey you, get over there," a tow-headed Marine, barely 20, shouted at the women and children. Slowly they padded silently where he pointed. American jet bombers demolished this village with tons of bombs and napalm. The Communist troops had stolen away before dawn. Only the women and children were left.

"We should have killed them all," said the young Marine, jabbing his M16 rifle in the direction of the crowd of women and children. "There's eight Marine bodies lying on the landing zone across the rice paddies."

An old man with a dirty gray beard clinging to a little boy with large burn blisters on the back of his neck, extended a tin can and pleaded for water. "Don't give him

any," the Marine shouted to his buddy. "Let them starve, let them die." Wordlessly another Marine extended his canteen and filled the man's cup.

Communist troops, firing from entrenchments on the tree line in front of the village, killed or wounded an entire Marine platoon on Thursday as it advanced across the rice paddies. It was not until Friday, right after the air strikes, that Marines dared enter the village.

Marines counted the spoils—two malaria-ridden men, blindfolded and shaking, held on suspicion, and several "captured" weapons, all of them rusted. As night fell women and children started crying. The intelligence sergeant asked what was wrong, and the interpreter reported they were "starving."

"Won't anyone feed these people?" the Sergeant asked. An officer, assigned to both calling in air strikes and directing civil affairs, said he'd see what he could do. "First I annihilate them and then I rehabilitate them," he said, laughing at his own joke.

—Donald Kirk in the *Washington Star* Dec. 31. (Abr.)